



Bridge Across the Willamette, Between Columbia Street, Portland, and Asylum Street, East Portland, Now in Course of Construction

Multnomah County

Adopted Budget
1997-98
Narrative Document

About the Cover

The cover is a reproduction of an engraving, described as "*Bridge Across the Willamette, Between Columbia Street, Portland and Asylum Street, East Portland, Now in Course of Construction*" (OrHi 95713). It is part of the collection of the Oregon Historical Society, located at 1200 SW Park Avenue in downtown Portland. The engraving is a rendering of one of the precursors to the Hawthorne Bridge – either Madison Street Bridge No. 1 or No. 2.

The bridge, originally the Madison Street Bridge, is now called the Hawthorne Street Bridge. It is named after Dr. J. C. Hawthorne who moved to Oregon in 1859 and helped found the Oregon Hospital for the Insane, which was located on Asylum and 12th Street in East Portland. The street was renamed Hawthorne in 1888, five years after the hospital was moved to Salem. There have been three structures on this site. The original bridge was constructed in 1891, the second bridge in 1900. The current structure replaced it in 1910.

In 1893, on Madison Bridge No. 1, a motorman disregarded the bridge's red light during heavy early morning fog, and the trolley car *Inez* tumbled into the Willamette's murky water. Seven people drowned. In 1901, a fire destroyed an iron works company and swept away six blocks of the eastside waterfront, including Madison Bridge No. 2's eastern approach.

Hawthorne Street Bridge

The current Hawthorne Street Bridge, designed by John Alexander Low Waddell, opened December 19, 1910 at a cost of \$500,000 and is the oldest operating vertical lift span bridge in the world. It is eligible for listing in the National Historic Register. The bridge is, however, showing wear and will be closed during the next year for approximately 12 months for painting and deck replacement.

A variety of commuters – trucks, cars, bikers and walkers – depend on the Hawthorne Bridge. The number of bridge users is substantial enough that the Hawthorne Bridge is recognized as a main artery for crossing the Willamette River. To continue carrying this traffic, the bridge needs vital repairs and improvements.

- the Hawthorne's paint has completely failed in many places exposing metal surfaces to the effects of corrosion and deterioration. The old lead-based paint must be removed and replaced.
- the current bridge deck, which was installed in 1945, is worn and must be replaced. The deck is the grated surface where cars and trucks travel to cross the bridge. If the rehabilitation work is not completed soon, bus and truck travel will be restricted and the service life of the bridge will be dramatically shortened.
- the support system needs to be upgraded. The counterweight ropes, which are responsible for raising the vertical lift, may need replacement.

This current project is Phase III of a four-phase rehabilitation program which began in 1985. Phase IV, not yet scheduled, will include seismic upgrades.

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Gary Hansen, Commissioner District 2
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Mike Schrunk, District Attorney

Appointed Officials

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Vickie Gates, Support Services
Jim McConnell, Aging Services
Larry Nicholas, Environmental Services
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Multnomah County

Vision, Values and Long-Term Outcome Benchmarks

Vision Statements

- Increase the Sense of Personal Opportunity and Success
- Increase the Sense of Safety and Security
- *RESULTS Roadmap*: The people of Multnomah County will receive excellent quality, customer-focused service, and a good value for their tax dollars. Multnomah County employees will have an excellent place to work.

Underlying Values for Multnomah County Government

- **Integrity**: We strive to be honest and fair in all our dealings.
- **Responsiveness**: As stewards of the public trust, we respect our citizens and work with them as partners. We are consistently open and accessible. Moreover, we actively seek opportunities to involve citizens meaningfully in decision-making.
- **Vision**: We are guided by a vision of a community in which:
 - people live without fear of their personal safety;
 - basic health needs are met;
 - the natural environment is valued and preserved
 - workers find well-paying jobs which fully use their skills; and
 - responsible business and industries flourish.
- **Quality of Service**: We provide effective services by using limited resources wisely. Specifically, we emphasize integrated services, preventive approaches and innovation.
- **Fiscal Responsibility**: We recognize that we are spending other people's hard earned money. We manage carefully the funds entrusted to us.
- **Accountability**: We earn the respect of citizens by providing full information about our goals, programs, and the standards by which we expect our performance to be evaluated.
- **Teamwork**: We cooperate enthusiastically with one another, with other governmental units, and with the private sector because we believe this makes us all more effective.
- **Diversity**: We honor and celebrate differences as sources of strength.
- **Respect For Employees**: County employees are skilled and committed professionals. One important role of elected officials and senior managers is to provide employees with the support they need to do the best job they can.

Long-Term Outcome Benchmarks

- Reduce Children in Poverty
- Increase School Completion With Life Skills Equivalency
- Reduce Crime

